

Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-13

FCSC-01 SCA-01 SCS-03 COME-00 EB-11 RSR-01 /124 W

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R 301430Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5005

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 2054

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CZ

SUBJECT: US-CZECHOSLOVAK RELATIONS--CLAIMS NEGOTIATIONS

1. DURING CALL, BY CHARGE, NOMINALLY FOR GENERAL REVIEW FOLLOWING SUMMER VACATIONS, MFA SIXTH DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR ZANTOVSKY SPOKE OPTIMISTICALLY OF FUTURE OF BILATERAL RELATIONS. HE LISTED AS KEYS TO SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT (1) SUCCESSFUL CLAIMS NEGOTIATION, (2) EXCHANGES AGREEMENT, AND (3) CHNOUPEK MEETING WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER FLOWING FROM AGREEMENT DURING SECRETARY ROGER'S JULY VISIT TO PRAGUE THAT TWO WOULD MEET AT UNGA.

2. ZANTOVSKY THEN LAUNCHED INTO PREVIEW OF WHAT IS AT LEAST TENTATIVE CZECH POSITION IN CLAIMS NEGOTIATIONS. HIGHLIGHTS WERE: (1) CZECH ASSESSMENT OF VALUE OF AMERICAN CITIZEN CLAIMS WAS CONSIDERABLY LOWER THAN OURS. SPECIFICALLY, GIVEN TERMS OF US-CSSR NATURALIZATION TREATY, UNDER WHICH DIVESTITURE OF CITIZEN SHIP OF CZECHS NATURALIZED IN 1938-57 IS NOT RECOGNIZED, SOME CLAIMANTS MAY NOT BE QUALIFIED AND THEIR CLAIMS THUS NOT PROPERLY INCLUDED. (2) AWARE OF PATTERN OF US SETTLEMENTS AT 40 PERCENT CZECHS--ZANTOVSKY IMPLIED--WILL EVENTUALLY ACCEPT EVALUATION AT 40 PERCENT OF \$72 MILLION, BUT WITH UNDERSTANDING THAT FULL PAYMENT FOR STEEL MILL WILL BE CREDITED. (3) ACTUAL PAYMENTS UNDER SETTLEMENT TO BE KEYED TO GRANT OF MFN.

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ZANTOVSKY WAS AWARE OF PROVISION IN US-HUNGARIAN AGREEMENT,

AND DESCRIBED IT AS NOT VERY GOOD.

3. WITHOUT DIRECT LINKAGE TO CLAIMS NEGOTIATIONS, ZANTOVSKY
URGED THAT US AGREE TO NEGOTIATE COMMERCIAL AGREEMENT
WITHOUT DELAY, URGING THAT THIS WOULD FACILITATE FURTHER
GROWTH OF TRADE.

4. DETAILS IN MEMCON BEING POUCHED.
WORTZEL

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